

RI Water Resources Board
100 North Main Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
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CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting
December 6, 2004

Members Present

Members

Absent

June Swallow John Milano
Robert Griffith
Jon Schock

Staff Present: Guests:

**Kathleen Crawley, Acting General Manager Ray Morin, No Tiverton
Fire**
Thomas R. Walker, PE Richard Chiodini, PE

1. CALL TO ORDER

**With a quorum present, Chairman Swallow called the meeting to
order at 9:30 AM.**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Griffith noting with sorrow the absence of John Milano, and seconded by Mr. Schock, the minutes of the September 4, 2003 Meeting were unanimously approved.

3. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Emergency Interconnection Grant Award – North Tiverton Fire District connection to Fall River

Ms Swallow noted that the first Item for Action was the Emergency Interconnection Grant Award to the North Tiverton Fire District and asked Mr. Walker to explain the action requested. Mr. Walker explained that the North Tiverton Fire District had experienced an increase in the costs associated with the \$674,000.00 Emergency Water System Interconnection with the City of Fall River Massachusetts. The increase was caused primarily by an increase in trench ledge excavation required to install a 16” ductile iron main on Fish Road. It should be pointed out that the Town is situated in an area comprised of extensive ledge rock covered with an overburden of 2 to 3 feet of soil. Therefore, the original plan was to take advantage of the previous excavation of the trench ledge by removing the 6” cast iron main on Fish Road replacing it with the 16” ductile iron main in the same location. The trench ledge had already been accomplished when the original line was installed. As construction

progressed, the 6" line was found to be asbestos Cement pipe (Transite) and not cast iron. The environmental problems associated with removing Transite rendered this approach economically unfeasible and the new line was relocated to the other side of the road resulting in an increase in the percentage of ledge in the required trench excavation. The work originally estimated to cost \$471,000.00 ended up costing \$200,000.00 more which when offset by removal of the chemical feed building and equipment to the location of the Stafford Road pumping station resulted in the Fish Road connection costing \$517,000.00.

The Stafford Road Pump station cost increased from \$203,000.00 to \$497,000.00 due to several factors. The Chemical Feed was added to the station because its previous location was near a school and the parents raised concerns about chemicals so close to the school. When the Stafford Road work was advertised, only one bidder responded with a bid of \$1.4 million. The station was redesigned and re-bid resulting in receiving five bids. The lowest four bids were within 5% of the low bidders offer to do the work for \$497,000.00.

Mr. Walker strongly recommended approval of increasing the original grant figure by \$355,000.00 and Ms Swallow asked for any questions from the Board Members. Mr, Chiodini added that the Fish Road work is 99.9% complete and therefore the figure given is not subject to any change. Since all five bidders on Stafford Road were so close, we

can have similar confidence in that figure also. Mr. Griffith asked if USDA had been approached and was told that they had increased their contribution in funding. They are now granting 45% of the total cost. Everyone is now contributing the same percentages but the percentages are now applied to the new total cost. Mr. Griffith then asked about any agreements guaranteeing North Tiverton continued supply in periods of shortage. Such an agreement is under discussion between the City of Fall River and The State of Massachusetts at present. It is important only if North Tiverton increases demand significantly because the present agreement between North Tiverton and Fall River guarantees up to 550,000 gallons per day. Fall River is presently making extensive alterations to their infrastructure to facilitate the transfer of water. Mr. Schock asked if this project was to replace an existing line. He was told that the 6-inch line that was going to be replaced was only to enable utilizing the trench where the ledge rock had been previously excavated. The pipe itself was not part of the interconnection. Much confusion arose regarding this item and staff was requested to provide a drawing of this pipeline before the Board Meeting to assist discussion. Mr. Schock also asked for portions of the Emergency Water System Interconnection Program Rules and Regulations. On a motion by Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Schock, the Committee voted to recommend approval of the Grant increase subject to the requested items being provided.

B. Emergency Water Systems Interconnections – Clarification of Rules and Regulations.

Per Ms Swallow's request, Mr. Walker introduced this item of business by requesting guidance as several situations have arisen lately which show areas that can lead to possible confusion in interpreting funding eligibility under this program. The first situation concerned East Smithfield Water District. The District requested permission to activate the Emergency Interconnection to the Providence Water Supply Board's Ridge Road Tank. The connection had been funded by the Water Resources Board. The District was uncertain as to when they could activate and the Board interpreted the Rules and Regulations as granting operation of the connection to the systems involved. The second situation concerned the eligibility of a connection between the Jamestown and the South Kingstown Systems to augment shortages on the Island. Under the interpretations of eligibility to date, the connection is ineligible. However, an emergency does exist since Rhode Island citizens on the Island are not being adequately serviced during low water conditions and are therefore under risk to their health and to their safety. The third situation concerned the interconnection of North Smithfield and Woonsocket and is highlighted by the recent court rulings that Silver Pines Condominium is eligible for water service. Ms. Swallow suggested that the question should be rephrased to ask if the program is intended to respond problems which we have already experienced and not only to future emergencies as has been the case to date. The discussion of this question resulted in the opinion that

the existing Rules and Regulations are sufficient to answer these questions on a case-by-case basis. The liberal interpretation clause in the Regulations gives sufficient latitude to make any changes unnecessary. Mr. Walker was directed to proceed in the present manner and when an unusual request is presented, he should present it to the Board at that time for direction. No action was taken on this item.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Emergency Interconnection Grant Award – North Tiverton Fire District connection to Fall River Status of Disbursements

Mr. Walker explained that during his absence due to illness, a disbursement was made to North Tiverton Fire District for 100% of the value of the work accomplished at that time. The disbursement should have been for 50% in accordance with the Grant. His discussion with Mr. Sams, the Water Resources Board General Manager at that time, resulted in a determination that future disbursements be held until the overpayment equaled the amount due and payments would then resume. This point should be reached in the next month or two. This was an information item only to keep the Board apprised of the situation in light of personnel changes.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Construction Operations and Engineering Committee – Staff

Activities elicited no comment.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Schock and seconded by Mr, Griffith the Committee adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

June Swallow.

Committee Chair

Overseeing Body: RI Water Resources Board

Public Body: RI Water Resources Board

Public Contact Information: Connie McGreavy

Posting Date: Dec. 21, 2004